



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Alpine Engineered Products, Inc.

Art Unit: 3726

Serial No. 09/605,148

Examining Attorney: T. Nguyen

Filed: June 23, 2000

For: PARALLEL ADJUSTABLE GANTRY TRUSS PLATE PRESS

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF DECEMBER 1, 2001 **RECEIVED**

MAR 24 2004

Asst. Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231**GROUP 3600**

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action of December 1, 2001, a Petition for Three-Month Extension filed herewith, the applicant files a Request for Continued Examination and makes the following amendments:

To the Claims:

21. A truss assembly apparatus for use in connection with assembling a truss, the truss having a plurality of truss members and a plurality of connector plates, said apparatus comprising:

a truss table comprising at least two guide tracks coupled to said truss table and a work surface on which the truss may be positioned;

a roller assembly movably coupled to said guide tracks, said roller assembly configured to press the connector plates into the truss members, said roller assembly comprising a plurality of drive wheels for moving said roller assembly at variable spatial relationships to work surface; and

an adjustment apparatus comprising at least one adjustment means supporting each end of the roller assembly, the adjustment means operably connected to effectuate simultaneous adjustment of the ends of the roller assembly between at least two positions for pressing connector plates into truss members while maintaining the roller assembly parallel to the work surface.